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Media Contact: Press Office
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Hearing: Preventing Nuclear Smuggling – Enlisting Foreign Cooperation

WHO: Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack
Chairman John Linder (R-GA)

WHEN: 2 pm, Thursday, May 25, 2006

WHERE: 2212 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESSES

Mr. Jayson Ahern
Assistant Commissioner Field Operations
Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security

Mr. David Huizenga
Assistant Deputy Administrator
International Material Protection & Cooperation
National Nuclear Security Administration

Mr. Frank Record
Acting Assistant Secretary
International Security and Nonproliferation
Department of State

Mr. Vayl Oxford
Director
Domestic Nuclear Detection Office
Department of Homeland Security

BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack will convene to study the essential process of incorporating foreign entities in nuclear material smuggling prevention efforts. In recent years, various United States counter smuggling programs have been initiated that require the active participation of foreign countries. While successful, each effort has faced some challenges.

The willingness of States to participate in these programs depends on a variety of factors. There have been concerns raised about foreign inspection protocols, the operation of nuclear detection equipment, and its vulnerability to tampering.

During the hearing, witnesses will testify on their respective experiences at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, and the Department of State in implementing programs to counter nuclear smuggling. For each program, the subcommittee will examine and compare the terms of the agreements reached and implementation successes and setbacks to determine how best to encourage foreign participation.

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